

ER 10-4367-9

7 JUN 1958

**Honorable John F. Shelley**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington 25, D. C.**

**Dear Mr. Shelley:**

Thank you for your letter of 3 June 1958 concerning propaganda aspects of the forthcoming launching of the nuclear powered merchant ship SAVANNAH. Your thoughts on a possible Communist propaganda attack are indeed interesting and well worth study.

I have noted that a copy of this letter was sent to the United States Information Agency. In view of the responsibilities placed on that agency, I believe it more appropriate that they respond to your queries. This matter was discussed with them and they are in agreement with my suggestion.

**Sincerely,**

**SIGNED**

**Allen W. Dulles**  
**Director**

DOCUMENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
RECEIVED BY: ☒ \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ \_\_\_\_\_  
DATE: 26/2/81  
STAT

**cc: Mr. Robert Walsh**  
**Congressional Liaison Office**  
**United States Information Agency**  
**Washington, D. C.**

**Distribution:**

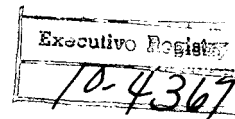
O & 1 - Addressee  
1 - USIA  
1 - DCI - *via Reading*  
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1 - ER - *my basic*  
1 - Legislative Counsel

OGC/LC:JSW:mks (6 June 1958)

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives

Washington, D. C.

June 3, 1958



Honorable Allen W. Dulles  
Director of Central Intelligence  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Now that the keel of the nuclear powered merchant ship Savannah has been laid, I feel it of extreme importance that the Government take steps to counter what will surely be a strong Communist propaganda barrage against the vessel's maiden and subsequent voyages.

The attack might well consist of warnings to longshoremen around the world not to work the ship because of the danger of radioactivity.

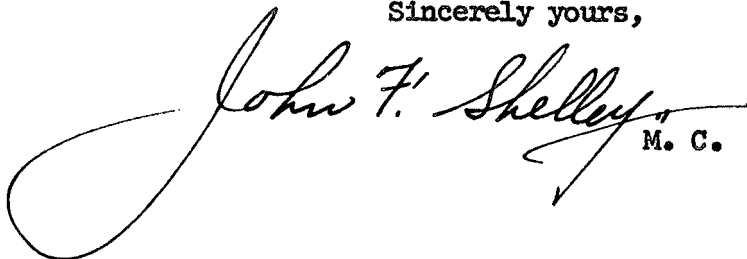
Another form, I feel certain, would be to imply that the ship might blow up without warning in the form of a nuclear burst. Port associations could be warned to refuse her entry on this account.

Normal overboard discharge from the nuclear vessel, the Reds might imply, could pollute and poison the waters of a harbor.

The eyes of the world will be on the Savannah when she embarks on her first voyage. I trust that our Government agencies are paving her way with some of the above thoughts in mind.

I would appreciate your comments on the matter, and if material has already been assembled, I should be most happy to know about it and to obtain a sampling of the proposed advance publicity on this extremely important global mission of salesmanship for the United States.

Sincerely yours,

  
M. C.

Lr

CC to White House  
State Department  
USIA  
US Coast Guard  
Maritime Administration

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE DIRECTOR

Have discussed the proposed reply to the attached letter from Representative Shelley with [REDACTED] In addition, I have discussed the proposed reply with Mr. Robert Walsh, Congressional Liaison Office, USIA. This approach is entirely agreeable with them.

Recommend sign [REDACTED]

Legislative Counsel

6 June 1958  
(DATE)

FORM NO. 101 REPLACES FORM 10-101  
1 AUG 54 WHICH MAY BE USED.

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